

DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE
Security Committee

SECOM-D-251

24 June 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR: Executive Secretary, COMIREX

FROM:

Security Consultant, COMIREX

SUBJECT: Structural Review of COMIREX

REFERENCES:

- A. Minutes of 6 June 1980 Meeting,
dated 12 June 1980 (DCI-CT-80-0772)
- B. Initial Comments/Proposals,
dated 12 June 1980
- C. Sample Charter Document,
dated 12 June 1980
- D. Advanced Systems Interface
Working Group, dated 9 April
1980, file COMIREX-D-13.14/13

1. After reviewing references and based on a limited but growing comprehension of the problem, the COMIREX sub-structure is seen as having developed into a conglomeration of some seventeen or more subcommittee or working group elements functioning at varying levels of activity. A situation has developed where there are multiple groups with different names and functions, but the same cast of characters. This represents a heavy drain on resources for all involved agencies.

2. From a security standpoint, whatever can be done to centralize the activity around fewer, generic elements, would provide the benefit of a potentially reduced dissemination problem and a more manageable paper flow.

3. I would suggest that the problem be attacked on a "zero base" premise by determining what broad, generic areas are needed to handle the tasks which COMIREX generally assigns to its substructure elements and follow this up with new charters, based on a standardized format detailing what advice, guidance and staffing is required. Perhaps these substructure generic elements should be termed working groups, reserving the term subcommittee only to a generic activity which has been delegated the authority to act for COMIREX on certain matters, thus relieving COMIREX of some of its duplication of effort.

4. It is noted that the Advanced Systems Interface Working Group organization concept seems to establish a parallel substructure involving many of the same people. Perhaps the objective addressed here could be integrated into a broader, generic approach to the COMIREX substructure to eliminate as much duplication of effort as possible.

5. Whatever form the COMIREX substructure takes, if it results in greater centralization of effort, a potential for security benefits will be exploited and a more tightly managed activity should result.

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